

Garage/Yard Sales



Garage sales are a great way to get rid of unwanted items and make space for those new golf clubs or that new piece of exercise equipment, but did you know that the Hillsborough County's Land Development Code regulates this type of activity?

Q Why is it necessary to regulate garage/yard sales?

The idea is to allow every citizen the opportunity to conduct a garage sale while at the same time considering that these sales are typically held in residential districts. Garage sales left unchecked could lead to a lingering effect on the surrounding community with the increased traffic and visual impact. Garage sales which extend beyond the prescribed time allotted are considered to be a commercial endeavor creating an activity which is not conducive to a residential neighborhood.

Q What type of items can I sell at my garage/yard sale?

While there is no specific language included in the Land Development Code which describes what may or may not be sold during this type of sale, the widely accepted definition is an outdoor sale of used personal or household items held on the seller's premises. The retail sale or resale of goods, equipment or merchandise would be considered a commercial enterprise and would therefore be prohibited from a residential district.

Q What limits are placed on garage/yard sales?

Garage and yard sales are considered an allowed accessory use in residential districts. However, sales are limited to one during each six month period, and the length of the sale itself cannot exceed three days. No zoning review or prior approval is necessary to stage a garage sale.

Q Is it true that yard sale signs are illegal?

While it's true that posting signs within the public right of way is prohibited, this includes the roadway, sidewalks, and the grassy areas along the roadway where public utilities are located; there are many creative ways to successfully advertise your sale. Successful methods include advertisements on the web, in local newspapers, on community bulletin boards and at neighborhood stores. You may also be interested to know that every residential dwelling is permitted to have one ground sign, with not more than six square feet of sign area and not higher than six feet, which could be used to advertise an upcoming garage/yard sale. It is important to note that this sign cannot be used to advertise anything which occurs, is sold or offered on another property. An off premise sign is specifically prohibited in Hillsborough County.

Q Can I remain anonymous when registering a complaint?

Yes. Hillsborough County does not require that you provide any personal identifying information when registering your complaint. It should be noted that any information that is provided to the department, including names, phone numbers, or email addresses, are subject to the Public Record Laws of the State of Florida and must be provided to anyone who requests the information. If you wish to remain completely anonymous do not provide any of this information to the department when registering the complaint.

CODE ENFORCEMENT TIP OF THE MONTH

A monthly e-newsletter by the
Hillsborough County Code Enforcement.

**Suggest topics and send comments to Kemly Green
at greenkj@hillsboroughcounty.org
or call (813) 274-6675**



Suspected violations can be reported in several ways:

- www.hillsboroughcounty.org/hcce
- 10119 Windhorst Rd. • 410 S.E. 30th St.
Tampa, FL 33619 Ruskin, FL 33570
- (813) 274-6600 during normal business hours.
- (813) 272-5900 7 days a week from 7:30 a.m.- 11:00 p.m.